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THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
Sherwood, Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

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THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, Sherwood, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The Church of the Epiphany, located in West Philadelphia, is a large stone structure with an attached parish hall of considerable size. Since there was no Church Self-Study Form received from the Church of the Epiphany, there was no self-appraisal by the congregation of its physical facilities.

THE CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD

Philadelphia is divided into tracts for the purposes of the United States Census Bureau. The Church of the Epiphany is located in Census Tract 51-D. This tract, together with the six contiguous tracts, have been arbitrarily assigned as the parish area. The following table gives information concerning the total population of this area, the number of Episcopalians in this area, and the total parish membership of the Church of the Epiphany:

CENSUS TRACT	TOTAL POP.	TOTAL EPIS.	% OF POP. EPIS.	TOTAL PARISH MEMB.	% EPIS. MEMB.	% PARISH MEMB.
51-D	6,920	203	2.9	120	59.1	19.0
40-A	8,066	168	2.1	24	14.3	3.7
46-E	10,354	388	3.7	44	11.3	6.9
46-F	12,098	212	1.8	34	16.0	5.3
46-G	6,720	173	2.6	18	10.4	2.7
51-C	4,850	78	1.6	12	15.4	1.8
51-E	11,655	378	3.2	17	4.5	2.6
Total	60,663	1,600	2.6	269	16.8	42.0

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The statistics given clearly show that the Church of the Epiphany is not a neighborhood church. In the arbitrarily assigned parish area, only in the tract in which the church is located does the church have more than 50% of the total number of Episcopalians. In this same parish area, only 42% of the total parish membership is to be found. It should be noted that there are no other Episcopal churches in the arbitrarily assigned parish area, and the two nearest the Church of the Epiphany are St. George's Church, West End, and St. Michael's Church in Yeadon.

The following table gives information concerning the changes in the population, where available, in the arbitrarily assigned parish area, the percentage of the population 14 years of age and under and 65 years of age and older, and the median age for men and women in the parish area:

CENSUS TRACT	POPULATION		% CHANGE	% 14 & UNDER	% 65 & OVER	MED. M AGE F	
	1950	1960					
51-D	NA	6,920		25.1	14.9	33.1	38.8
40-A	NA	8,066		25.8	11.5	30.5	37.6
46-E	NA	10,354		27.9	10.1	30.7	33.0
46-F	13,066	12,098	-7.4	30.8	9.7	28.8	30.7
46-G	NA	6,720		25.4	13.2	30.0	33.7
51-C	5,200	4,850	-6.7	26.6	12.9	30.9	35.6
51-E	12,846	11,655	-9.3	25.0	12.9	33.4	38.6
Total		60,663					

There is much evidence that not only in those tracts where data is available did the population decline, but also in the remaining tracts a population declination took place. When compared to Philadelphia as a whole, the percentages under 15 years of age and over 65 are not too disparate in the area census tracts, except in the tract in which the church is located where the median age level is somewhat higher than that of the other tracts and in Philadelphia as a whole. In Philadelphia, 26.5% of the total

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population is under 15 years of age, 10.4% is 65 years of age and older, the median age level for men is 32.1 years and for women 34.6 years.

The following table gives information concerning the education of adults 25 years of age and older in the parish area:

CENSUS TRACT	ED. OF ADULTS 25 YRS. OF AGE & OVER			MEDIAN ED.
	% H.S. GRAD.	% COLL. 1-3 YRS.	% COLL. GRAD.	
51-D	25.8	7.1	4.2	10.5
40-A	26.9	4.6	4.0	10.0
46-E	25.1	9.8	8.9	11.1
46-F	26.2	5.1	3.5	10.1
46-G	25.6	5.8	7.6	10.5
51-C	26.3	6.2	2.3	10.3
51-E	25.6	4.0	3.1	9.8

While the median education levels for the tracts in the arbitrarily assigned parish area are below the national median of approximately high school graduation, they are higher overall than the median education for the City of Philadelphia which is 9.6 years. In Philadelphia, 5.1% of the population 25 years of age and older are college graduates, 5.1% have had from one to three years of college, and 20.0% are high school graduates. It is interesting to note that the census tract with the highest median education level is also the one that will be shown to have the highest non-white population in the table below.

The following table gives information concerning the changes in the non-white population between 1950 and 1960, and the percentage of the non-white population in the arbitrarily assigned parish area:

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CENSUS TRACT	NON-WHITE POPULATION		% CHANGE	% NON-WHITE
	1950	1960		
51-D	NA	81		1.2
40-A	NA	180		2.2
46-E	NA	6,179		59.7
46-F	32	6,877	21,390.6	56.8
46-G	NA	2,350		35.0
51-C	3	369	12,200.0	7.6
51-E	16	19	18.8	0.2
Total		16,055		26.5

The phenomenal growth of the non-white population in two of the tracts for which data are available would tend to reveal that such growth took place in the two additional tracts where the percentage of the non-white population is quite high. Two of these Census Tracts, 46-F, and 46-G, are shared as arbitrarily assigned parish areas of the Holy Apostles' and The Mediator Church.

The following table gives the percentage of the population five years of age and older in 1960 that had the same residence as in 1955:

CENSUS TRACT	RESIDENCE 1960 SAME AS 1955
	%
51-D	66.0
40-A	65.6
46-E	34.4
46-F	41.9
46-G	43.1
51-C	60.7
51-E	70.5

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In the City of Philadelphia, this percentage was 60.0%. In all but three of the tracts, this percentage is higher than that for Philadelphia as a whole, and it is interesting to see that in the three tracts where the percentage is low, the percentage of the non-white population is high. This is a clear indication of the new influx of the Negro population to the area.

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THE CHURCH PROGRAM

Since the Church of the Epiphany failed to submit a Church Self-Study Form, it is not possible to provide an analysis of the church program at the present time.

REPORTED MEMBERSHIP FROM MAPS

A total of 636 persons is located on the membership maps submitted by the Church of the Epiphany in Sherwood. The distribution of the congregation includes a considerable number in Delaware and Montgomery Counties. Only in the census tract in which the church is located is there more than 7% of the congregation, and in this tract 19% of the congregation is to be found. The table on the following pages gives the complete membership distribution for the Church of the Epiphany.

MEMBERSHIP DISTRIBUTION TABLE

PARISH PHILADELPHIA

EPIPHANY

CENSUS TRACT OR AREA	NUMBER OF MAPPED MEMBERS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL MAPPED MEMBERSHIP
D 85	6	0
D 89	1	0
41 B	3	5
D 78 A	5	8
D 78 B	7	11
D 2	3	5
D 4	5	8
D 6	5	8
D 9	11	17
D 11	7	11
D 13	18	27
D 16	4	6
D 1	6	9
D 19	18	27
D 20	1	2
D 21	16	25
D 28	10	15
D 31 B	2	3
D 32	3	5
D 33	1	2
D 34 B	5	8
D 36	4	6
38	2	3
D 73	1	2
D 74 B	4	6
D 76	2	3
D 77	4	6
D 81 B	2	3
M 43	1	2
M 47	4	6
M 48	2	3
M 49	3	5
M 53	2	3
M 54	3	5
M 55	1	2
M 6	2	3
M 14 A	1	2
M 56	2	3
5 A	1	2
15 B	1	2
15 D	1	2
22 C	1	2
22 E	3	5
22 F	1	2
22 I	4	6
22 P	1	2
23 E	1	2
24 E	2	3
24 I	1	2
27 A	3	5
27 B	1	2
27 C	1	2
30 B	2	3
33 C	1	2
35 G	1	2

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REPORTED MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCIAL DATA FROM JOURNALS

Between 1950 and 1960, the population of Philadelphia declined by 3.3%. During this same period, the baptized membership of the Church of the Epiphany in Sherwood declined by 16.2%, and since the 1950 baptized membership was an estimated number based on the communicant membership, there is much indication that the decline was even more precipitate. The following table gives information on the changes in membership status in the Church of the Epiphany:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	-16.2	2.9	-16.9
Communicants	-32.8	-17.4	-18.2
Church School	-67.5	-45.5	27.3

The following table gives the percentage changes in the membership status of Episcopal churches in West Philadelphia:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	10.9	6.7	-6.4
Communicants	-18.3	-13.9	0.7
Church School	-16.1	- 9.9	-4.9

The Episcopal Church in Philadelphia had a statistical pattern as follows:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	- 4.8	-5.7	-7.7
Communicants	-11.3	-9.0	-3.5
Church School	1.3	-3.8	-6.6

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The Diocese of Pennsylvania showed the following growth and loss trends for the same time periods:

MEMBERSHIP STATUS	% CHANGE		
	1950-60	1955-60	1960-63
Baptized Members	19.9	5.4	-2.1
Communicants	11.4	3.8	1.5
Church School	41.8	17.7	-3.8

The very small size of the church school would make even small changes in membership highly significant in tabulating percentages. The overall picture of the parish is, however, one of steady decline in membership.

Between 1961 and 1963, the Church of the Epiphany had 19 baptisms and 11 confirmations. The percentage of baptisms to the communicant strength in this period was 1.6% and the percentage of confirmations to the communicant strength was 0.9%. In West Philadelphia, the both percentages are 3.8% and in Philadelphia the percentages were 3.5% and 3.4%, respectively. In the Diocese of Pennsylvania as a whole, these percentages were 3.9% and 4.1%, respectively. It is usually considered necessary to have percentage of at least 5% in both categories in order to insure a continued level of membership or growth in a parish. The low level of confirmations and baptisms in this parish tends to imply that there will be more decline in the parish membership in the future.

Between 1961 and 1963, inclusive, the Church of the Epiphany had total reported expenditures of \$56,659.00, of which \$3,422.00, or 6% of the total expenditures, went for purposes outside of the parish. In West Philadelphia this ratio of reported expenditures to the extra-parochial expenditures was 13.1%, and in the City of Philadelphia the percentage was 11.3%. In the Diocese of Pennsylvania this percentage is 14.2%.

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In the three-year period, the average expenditures per communicant per year amounted to \$46.77, of which \$2.83 went for purposes outside of the parish. In West Philadelphia, the comparable figures were \$54.54 and \$7.17 respectively, while in the City of Philadelphia the comparable figures were \$88.66 and \$10.02 respectively. Expenditures per communicant in the Diocese of Pennsylvania amounted to \$73.71 on the average, of which \$10.45 went for purposes outside of the parish. The Church of the Epiphany seems to have very low total expenditures and its missionary giving is quite a bit below the average for other Episcopal churches in its area, in the city, and in the diocese.

VITAL STATISTICS

 PARISH EPIPHANY
 COUNTY PHILADELPHIA

 TOWN SHERWOOD
 DIOCESE PENNSYLVANIA

	1940	1945	1950	1955	1960	1961	1962	1963
Baptized Members	* 830	* 818	* 728	* 593	610	465	482	507
Communicants	830	818	728	593	489	403	408	400
Church School	378	182	169	101	55	54	62	70
Baptisms	14	21	11	15	4	5	9	5
Percentage of Communicants	1.7	2.6	1.5	2.5	0.8	1.2	2.2	1.3
Confirmations	17	13	16	31	4	4	3	4
Percentage of Communicants	2.0	1.6	2.2	5.2	0.8	1.0	0.7	1.0
Parochial Expenditures 1	9,191	12,207	14,369	16,226	NR	17,987	17,033	14,722
Special Par. Expenditures 2	1,647	4,059	6,215	4,945	NR	946	1298	1251
Extra-parochial Expenditures 3	1,906	3,002	3,318	3,566	NR	1,270	1046	1106
Total Reported Expenditures	12,744	19,268	23,902	24,737		20,203	19,377	17,079
Expenditures per Communicant	15.35	23.56	32.83	41.72		50.13	47.49	42.70
Extra-parochial Expenditures per Communicant	2.30	3.67	4.56	6.01		3.15	2.56	2.77

* GDRFS ESTIMATE (NR)

- 1 Includes clergy salary, current expense, pension premium, and Diocesan assessment.
- 2 Special parish purposes, including capital expenditures.
- 3 Includes Church's Program, special outside.

DATA ON THE CONGREGATION

The Episcopal Census submitted by the Church of the Epiphany was too small a proportion of the baptized membership to be useful for statistical analysis. From the figures given, it appears that a large proportion of the congregation is above 50 years of age. This fact is further borne out in an examination of the occupational status of those reporting, where the largest category outside of housewives was of retired persons. Of the gainfully employed, professional persons were in the greatest number, followed by clerical workers.

Of those who reported on the length of membership in this congregation, 24 out of 85 have been members for 40-50 years, and an additional seven have been members for 50 years or longer. Of the 85 who reported only 21 persons have a membership of under 10 years.

The education level of persons in this parish is considerably higher than that of the arbitrarily assigned parish area. Indeed, the education level is perhaps higher than that found not only in Philadelphia but in Delaware and Montgomery Counties. Nearly half of those who reported have had one or more years of education beyond high school. And only 11 of those who reported had less than high school graduation as a level of education.

Regarding ethnic and racial backgrounds, the largest percentage is made up of persons of Anglo-Saxon origins, but it should be noted that at least a small percentage of those who reported are Negroes.

It is interesting to observe that in spite of the widespread nature of the congregation as reported on the membership maps, a very high percentage of those who reported in the Episcopal Census live within a mile of the church. This further reflects the instability of, and insufficient data on, the congregation.

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Of the 55 families who reported, however, only 10 can get to church in less than 10 minutes. A total of 46 families reported on the age of their residences. Of this number, 27 live in homes built in the first decades of this century. Of 56 families who reported, 47 live in single-family dwellings.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

THE CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, Sherwood, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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Since the Church of the Epiphany failed to submit a Church Self-Study Form, it is impossible to offer any discussion and recommendations at the present time. Should the Church of the Epiphany elect to complete its Self-Study Form, the General Division of Research and Field Study would be willing to process it in the future, as time permits.